



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196  
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor

June 22, 2010

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Section 43-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I transmit, with my disapproval, 2010 H 7165, Substitute A, "Relating to Businesses and Professions – Licensing of Genetic Counselors."

This Act provides a statutory framework for the licensing and regulation of genetic counselors. The Rhode Island Department of Health would be required to promulgate the regulations and licensing requirements consistent with this statute and accepted guidelines that govern this field of practice.

I am fully supportive of efforts to regulate this particular profession, but I am concerned that the Act as passed does not provide adequate conscience protections for the professionals who will be regulated under the law. Pro-life health care professionals could be denied a license simply because they do not recognize abortion as an appropriate "treatment" option. Pro-life professionals should not be treated as second class citizens, and should be afforded protection through the law.

The General Assembly had the opportunity to amend this legislation, and include express language that would have provided needed protections to this group of health care professionals. Although proponents of the law agreed aloud that practitioners' with a pro-life philosophy need to be protected, they refused to add such protections through an amendment.

For these reasons, I disapprove of this legislation and respectfully urge your support of this veto.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor